

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /067 W
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R 280305Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9561
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 13153

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, RP, ME, LY
SUBJECT: GOP TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH MNLF

REF: MANILA 12849

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON MALAYSIAN POLCOUNS HASHIM TAIB AUGUST 27
TO ASK HIS IMPRESSIONS OF RECENT VISIT TO PHILIPPINES BY
ISLAMIC SECRETARY GENERAL AMADOU KARIM GAYE AND DELEGATION
(AUGUST 20-24). TAIB SAID HIS AMBASSADOR HAD OPPORTUNITY
TO TALK WITH DELEGATION DURING DINNER HOSTED BY FORSEC
ROMULO AND CAME AWAY WITH IMPRESSION THAT VISIT HAD INDEED
BEEN CORDIAL. ACCORDING TAIB, BOTH LIBYAN MEMBERS OF
DELEGATION AND GOP REPS SAID THAT PHILIPPINES HAD AGREED
TO RESUME DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH LEADERS OF MORO
NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) INCLUDING NUR MISUARI AS
URGED BY LAST TWO ISLAMIC CONFERENCES. ACCORDING
TAIB, VENUE WILL APPARENTLY BE TRIPOLI. TAIB SAID
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THAT GOP ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS,

LININDING PANGANDAMAN, HAD INDICATED THAT GOP WOULD PREFER JIDDA OR CAIRO. HOWEVER, ADMIRAL ESPALDON, WHO IN TAIB'S VIEW WILL BE CALLING THE SHOTS ON THIS MATTER UNDER PRESIDENT MARCOS, TOLD MALAYSIAN AMBASSADOR THAT VENUE DID NOT REALLY MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.

2. TAIB SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL PROBABLY BEGIN "SOON," ALTHOUGH NOT BEFORE END OF RAMADAN FASTING MONTH (WHICH HAS JUST STARTED).

3. ACCORDING TAIB, LIBYAN MOFA UNDERSECRETARY AL-TREKI CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS MRS. MARCOS INVITED TO VISIT LIBYA AND QADHAFI INVITED TO VISIT PHILIPPINES.

4. COMMENT: GOP WILLINGNESS TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS WITH EXILED MNLF LEADERS HAS NOT YET BEEN REPORTED IN MANILA PRESS. IF NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER EITHER SIDE WILL BE WILLING TO BUDGE FROM RIGID POSITIONS WHICH RESULTED IN FAILURE OF LAST ROUND OF TALKS IN JIDDA IN JANUARY 1975. AT THAT TIME MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK WAS RADICALLY DIFFERENT INTERPRETATIONS OF "AUTONOMY" FOR MUSLIMS OF MINDANAO AND SULU WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY.
SULLIVAN

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